

their children while regrouping. Many child care facility owners are still waiting to hear from FEMA about financial assistance. Because I recognize the importance of emergency child care after a disaster, I introduced H.R. 2479, the Emergency Child Care Services Act, which was referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This bill would amend the Stafford Act to designate emergency child care as a "critical service" that is eligible to receive disaster assistance from FEMA. Recently, I have received calls from colleagues who represent areas affected by the California wildfires, inquiring about the bill's status. I am disappointed that the Emergency Child Care bill was not included in the bill debated on the floor today. It is my hope that my bill will be successfully passed out of Committee in the near future.

As Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), of which FEMA is a part, our Committee works diligently to ensure that DHS and all of its components are prepared to respond to acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies. This bill will help rebuild our communities in both Louisiana and Mississippi and help with preparedness efforts for future incidents.

In closing, let me thank my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their leadership on this legislation, and in particular, Ms. NORTON, who is also a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, for spearheading this effort. I look forward to working with Chairman OBERSTAR, Ms. NORTON and others on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to assure that our Federal disaster and post-terrorism response capabilities are at the level that the American people deserve. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

CONGRATULATING MR. ROBERT A. REYNOLDS, JR.

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert A. Reynolds, Jr., an exceptional leader from my district in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 2000, Bob has served as President and CEO of Graybar Electric Co., Inc, a Fortune 500 company employing nearly 8,000 men and women at more than 250 distribution centers in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

Prior to his election as Chairman of the Board at Graybar in 2001, Bob served in various capacities at the company. He joined Graybar in 1972 as an office salesman, was transferred to the Philadelphia unit as a sales representative in 1977 and was later appointed manager of the national consumer products accounts at corporate headquarters in 1979. After serving as a branch manager in New York and Connecticut, he was appointed district manager in Seattle. Bob eventually became Vice President of Communications Markets and Vice President of Communication and Data Business before he was named Senior Vice President of Electrical Business in 2000. During his tenure as President and CEO, Graybar was on the Fortune America's

Most Admired Companies list for six consecutive years.

Bob's leadership over the years has proven invaluable not only to Graybar, but to the community as a whole. He currently serves on the boards of the National Association of Electrical Distributors, the Boy Scouts of Greater Saint Louis, the United Way of Greater Saint Louis, the Saint Louis Club, the Log Cabin Club, Civic Progress of Saint Louis, and the Saint Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association. He is the former Chairman of the Board at the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW) and now serves as Past Chairman of the Board.

I am pleased to be able to honor Robert A. Reynolds, Jr. today. He is a remarkable example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing he and his family the very best as he finishes his service at NAW.

#### FUND OUR VETERANS

**HON. THELMA D. DRAKE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, this is day 32. That is 32 days, so far, that our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That is \$18.5 million a day not able to be used. And why? Because the Democratic leadership has decided to not complete this bill and send it to the President, who has agreed to sign it.

In June this House passed this appropriation bill with a \$6 billion increase in a bipartisan manner. We were proud of our work and grateful to our veterans.

On September 6, the Senate completed their bill.

This work is done. Our veterans are not pawns in a political game. They are heroes.— Their sacrifices should not be used for more spending & more partisanship here in DC.

America expects us to get the job done. America expects us to provide the best care to our veterans.

Please join me in calling upon the Democratic leadership to put our veterans first and send this bill to the President now.

#### TRIBUTE TO NORTH FORT MYERS ELKS LODGE #2742

**HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the North Fort Myers Elks Lodge # 2742 for their tireless and dedicated service to Southwest Florida's veterans.

The Elks are committed to the ideals of charity and patriotism and have a long tradition of supporting service projects throughout their local communities. No lodge fits this ideal better than the North Fort Myers Elks Lodge #2742, who will be recognized for their service to the Southwest Florida veterans community next week at the Florida Elks' State Convention in Orlando.

Since 1917, the Order of Elks has pledged to never forget our nation's veterans. The men

and women of the North Fort Myers Elks have taken the Elks' pledge to heart. Their record of service to the veterans of Southwest Florida is inspiring and worthy of commendation.

Over the last several years, the North Fort Myers Elks have served over 14,000 hot meals and provided over \$107,000 in food items, necessities and clothing to the region's homeless veterans; have logged over 90,000 miles transporting veterans to the Bay Pines VA Medical Center in Bay Pines, Florida; and have repeatedly been recognized by the national Elks organization for their service to veterans, taking first place four years in a row.

We all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have served our country valiantly, and the North Fort Myers Elks have shown their community what compassion and service to our nation's veterans truly means.

I'm honored to represent these caring and hardworking individuals in Congress, and thank them for their efforts in making Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit.

HONORING DR. TERRY L. MARIS, OHIO VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, a ceremony in Columbus next week will mark the induction of 20 distinguished Ohioans into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. I am honored to commend to the House one of these inductees: Dr. Terry L. Maris of Hardin County.

Dr. Maris is an Army Special Operations veteran who served two combat tours in Vietnam. A Purple Heart recipient, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Gold Star, and numerous other decorations for his valorous service.

Following his distinguished Army career, Dr. Maris put the leadership skills he honed in Vietnam to good use in the private sector, where he has compiled an admirable record in the fields of business research and teaching. As Dean of the College of Business at Ohio Northern University for 15 years, he oversaw the implementation of new instructional methods and cutting-edge teaching technologies to ensure that his students would best be prepared to succeed. He continues to serve as Executive Director of the Center for Cuban Business Studies, which he created to help people across the hemisphere lay the groundwork for relations with Cuba after the Castro regime.

Madam Speaker, selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor accorded to only 20 Ohioans per year. To be considered for induction, individuals must not only serve the Nation honorably in the military, but also reflect the high value of service to others in their post-military careers.

In a letter recommending Dr. Maris for inclusion in the Hall, American Veterans Institute President Mike Jackson called him a "quiet hero" who has dedicated himself to educating future generations for the betterment of people everywhere. I am pleased to join in the accolades for Dr. Maris and his inestimable record

of service to our Nation as he is inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

HONORING MRS. DOROTHY CHIERO,  
RECIPIENT OF THE CHARLES E.  
PIPER AWARD

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Dorothy Chiero, recipient of the 2007 Charles E. Piper Award for exceptional business achievement. Dorothy Chiero has worked for Bellair Expediting Service for the last 31 years and currently oversees 23 offices through the United States as a corporate office manager. Her outstanding leadership has greatly impacted the local community and its businesses.

As a long-time resident and proud member of the Berwyn business community, Dorothy Chiero has been very active in promoting local businesses. Dorothy played an essential role in the formulation of the Historic Depot District Special Events Committee of the Berwyn Development Corporation. This committee has hosted a number of successful events which have brought attention and notoriety to the business district in the Depot area.

Dorothy's leadership in the community also extends to the two area businesses that she owns with her husband, Cabin Fever and AWESOME Pest Service, as well as her participation in many other local organizations. She is currently serving on The Berwyn Development Corporation's Ogden/Depot District TIF Committee and the Transit Oriented Development Steering Committee and is an active member of the Democratic Citizens of Berwyn and the Women's Club of Berwyn.

I rise today to congratulate Dorothy Chiero, recipient of the 2007 Charles E. Piper Award, for her efforts and positive influence on the Berwyn business community. It is my privilege and pleasure to congratulate Mrs. Chiero on this award and acknowledge her contributions to the community. Her unique approach, dedication, and determination serve as an inspiration to the business community, as well as all citizens.

TRIBUTE TO PAT KERR

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the selfless acts of Pat Kerr. Mrs. Kerr has tirelessly advocated on behalf of service members and their families.

After her daughter, CPT. Kat Numerick, was deployed to Iraq, Pat Kerr organized successful events at the Capitol to raise support for our troops. Mrs. Kerr has earned the reputation of refusing to turn down any soldier or family member. She regularly works late into the night, spending her own time and money to resolve each family's problems. Recently, Mrs. Kerr testified to Congress on the care of wounded servicemen.

Due to her relentless work to improve conditions for our troops, Mrs. Kerr has been recognized by Traditional Home magazine as a 2007 Classic Woman. She will be commended at an award ceremony in New York and will be featured in an article in Traditional Home's Classic Woman issue. This prestigious distinction comes with a \$2,500 contribution from Traditional Home, which will be awarded to The Military Family Relief Fund.

Currently, Mrs. Kerr continues her career at the Missouri State Veterans' Commission. She and her husband, John, care for their grandson while Captain Numerick serves her third tour of duty. I trust that Members of the House will join me in thanking Pat Kerr for her devotion to the brave men and women in our military.

IN HONOR OF JERRY SMITH

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Monterey County Supervisor, Jerry Smith, on the occasion of his recognition as one of Monterey County's outstanding veterans of the year by the Monterey County Veterans Services Advisory Commission. I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize Supervisor Smith not only because of his long public service in the California Central Coast community that I represent, but also because I consider Jerry and Byrl, the love of his life and wife of forty years, as friends.

Jerry Smith was born in 1945 and raised in Monterey County, California. He is the descendant of a pioneer family that arrived on the Monterey Peninsula in 1889. His great grandfather, William Niblett, first settled in Pacific Grove. The Niblett family lived there until 1937 and later moved to what was then the unincorporated community of Seaside. In the 1950s, Jerry's family was active in the successful efforts to incorporate this area as the City of Seaside. My own family's connection to Jerry's family begins at that time through my father Fred Farr's Seaside based law practice and his own involvement in the Seaside incorporation efforts.

After college, Jerry served a tour of duty in Vietnam with the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Following his return to Seaside in 1968, Jerry worked in a variety of fields including hotel management, banking, and auto sales. That is where I first met him, when in 1978 he sold me a Volkswagen Rabbit. Later that year following a service visit, I pulled into traffic while leaving Jerry's Wester Volkswagen dealership and into the path of a fast moving cement truck. I have joked with Jerry over the years that had this accident actually been fatal, rather than simple near fatal, he would have been the last person on Earth that I had any contact with.

In 1982, Jerry launched a public service career in law enforcement. He served over twenty years as a peace officer at the California State Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, where he rose to the position of Community Resources Manager. In 1998, Jerry won his first of three terms as Mayor of his home town. Under his leadership, the City of Seaside started its rebirth following the 1993 clo-

sure of the adjacent Fort Ord Army base. In 2004, Jerry became the first African American elected to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to represent the Fourth District. In his capacity as County Supervisor, Jerry serves on numerous Committees and Boards, including the Monterey County Voting Rights Committee, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, the Transportation Agency of Monterey County, the Natividad Medical Center Board of Trustees, and many others. In all of this work, Jerry has kept the interest of veterans at the forefront both in his official capacity and as an active member of American Legion Post 591 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Jerry has also been an active member of his community beyond his official duties as Mayor and Supervisor. He attends St. Francis Xavier Church and is a member of numerous charitable organizations throughout Monterey County, such as St. Francis Xavier Knights of Columbus, Monterey County NAACP, United Way, and the Monterey County Crime Prevention Association, to name a few.

Madam Speaker, in addition to his record of public service in general, and for veterans in particular, Jerry is also a shining role model for comity and decorum in public discourse. He is unfailingly gracious. Even in heated disagreement, of which we have had our share over the years, Jerry is always at pains to treat the other participants in the discourse with dignity. I know that I speak for the whole House in offering Jerry and Byrl our congratulations and best wishes for the future.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTERS OF MERCY

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 1, 2007*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Sisters of Mercy and their 150 years of service in Sacramento. One and a half centuries ago an extraordinary group of women traveled from Ireland to California to improve the lives of the poor, sick and uneducated. Their spirit and dedication still lives on in the work of today's Sisters of Mercy. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring some of Sacramento's finest citizens.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded in 1831 by Catherine McAuley in Dublin Ireland. In 1854, eight sisters arrived in San Francisco to begin their "Mercy mission." On the morning of October 2, 1857, at the request of Bishop Joseph Alemany of San Francisco, the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Sacramento. Led by Mary Baptist Russell, four sisters traveled to a new community. They immediately established a school, cared for orphans and assisted the poor.

Over the past 150 years, the Sisters have cared for countless Sacramentans and expanded their services in hopes of reaching the entire community. They established the Catholic Orphanage of Sacramento and provided social services for those in need. In 1875, the Sisters opened St. Joseph's Academy, offering women an education, employment trainings and boarding school accommodations. At a time when women were often shut out of the public sphere, the academy was dedicated to expanding women's contributions in society. The Sisters of Mercy have since grown to include over fourteen elementary schools and